

Executive Director
163-9387

OC-1260

M-64/65

14 DEC 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director

SUBJECT : Encipherment of Traffic Between President Kennedy
and Premier Khrushchev


1. In the communications security briefing of the DCI this morning he commented that he was concerned about the delays in message handling time for messages between President Kennedy and Premier Khrushchev. He asked why encipherment prior to transmission is required.

2. After further consideration of Mr. McCone's question we are of the opinion that:

a. There would be no requirement for the encipherment of messages which are to be made public by one or both parties concerned.

b. In recognition of the fact that most governments have their own intercept capability it would be appropriate for privacy purposes to encipher any exchange which the two parties desire to keep from these other governments.

3. There are cryptographic systems which are available for this purpose, such as one-time tape systems, which NSA and the Communications Security Board would approve for issuance to the Soviets.


Director of Communications

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(EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FILE)

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP					
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS		DATE	INITIALS	
1	D/commo. - By		TELEPHONE		
2			18 DEC.		
3					
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ACTION		DIRECT REPLY		PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL		DISPATCH		RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT		FILE		RETURN	
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION		SIGNATURE	
Remarks:					
<p><i>Could you find out why these were enciphered?</i></p> <p><i>LBK</i></p>					
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER					
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.				DATE	
				18 Dec	
UNCLASSIFIED				SECRET	